



In the United States patent and Trademark Office

William E. McLlaughlin

10/015,798 filed 011/02/01 [continuation of 09/235,618 of 01/21/99]

Preliminary Examination Group

Southampton, PA 18966-4545 March 14, 2002

Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231VIA FAX To 703-305-9822 and with MAIL CONFIRMATION [Cert. of Muil 03/14/02] Box INITIAL EXAMINATION DIVISION, Attn: Delora Dillard Friends:

Supplemental Declaration of Absence of New Matter:

On Jan. 16, 2002, a Formalities Letter was sent requesting a replacement specification by reason of the damage [anthrax processing] to the adequate application filed Nov. 2, 2001. Each of these applications has been a photocopy of the pending allowed parent application, so that applicant is believed to have fulfilled his primary duty of providing to the Patent Office an adequate application, as indicated by the allowance of the parentlissue fee pd 11-2-01]. Counsel has been seeking confirmation, and now asks for prompt FAX confirmation [to meet March 16, 2002 deadline] that the application filed March 2 meets present standards concerning suitability for making photocopies [prompting Jan. 16. Requirement]. This supplemental Declaration also confirms that the application submitted March 2, 2002 was a true copy of the parent application and the application filed Nov. 2, 2001, AND THAT THERE IS NO NEW MATTER. A true photocopy of a parent application inherently contains no new matter, but the "magic words" of "no new matter" might have been omitted from previous true copy statements.

Respectfully submitted, John R. Ewbank, Reg. #14,853

Voice 215-357-3977 Fax 216-322-2673

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AX ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS

Counsel is providing this form which the Office of Initial Examination can use to notify counsel that there has been satisfactory compliance with the requirements of the January 16, 2002 FORMALITIES LETTER in the application of William E. McLaughlin, 10/015,798 filed 11/02/01 as a continuation [potential division] of 09/235.618 of 01/21/99.

This Confirmation should be FAXed to

215-322-2673





In the United States Patent and Trademark Office Southampton, PA 18966-4545

November 2, 2001 [note that filing was attempted on August 9, 2001 by FAXing to 703-746-4256]

McLAUGHLin APPLICATION FOR APPARATUS CLAIMS

Assistant Commissioner of Patents.

Box Patent Applications-

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

WHY THIS APPLICATION MERITS EXPEDITED PROSECUTION AS IF IT WERE UNAMBIGUOUSLY ENTITLED FROM THE FIRST TO BE CALLED A DIVISIONAL APPLICATION

This application has a specification identical to that of a pending application now in the Publications group because of a Notice of Allowability issued September 7, 2001. Such allowed pending application has method claims and is a CPA application filed July 6, 2001 derived from parent application 09/235,6198, filed 01/21/99. Dr. Sean Smith was the Examiner throughout the prosecution. He is in Group 3729, headed by Lee Young. The applicant and inventorship herein are identical to such parent and CPA cases. The claims which are effectively sought herein are identical to the apparatus claims which previously were sought in the CPA application. When the parent case was filed, it included both method claims and apparatus claims. Such original apparatus claims are resubmitted [to maximize similarity to parent case as filed] but are cancelled by a Preliminary Amendment substituting the apparatus claims that were in the CPA case when capitulating to the Examiner's erroneous requirement for cancellation of the apparatus claims.

Counsel cannot quote a class and subclass for the presently sought claims because Examiner Smith never make a conventional restriction requirement.

When the case was filed on Jan. 21, 1999, there were both method and apparatus claims. In each of four amendments, applicant argued for the allowability of both method and apparatus claims, never making any election between them. The Examiner did not then raise any issue about restriction Then in the Final Rejection, Examiner Smith quite erroneously asserted that method claims had

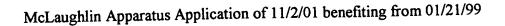
McLAUGHLiN Divisional Apparatus Application of 11/02/01 benefiting from 01/21/99

been elected, and required the cancellation of the apparatus claims in order to expedite a Notice of Allowability of the method claims. The restriction requirement was a baffling surprise feature in a Final Rejection. Legal authorities were cited in attacking the restriction requirement, but Examiner Smith repeated it in the response to the After Final amendment. It seemed wiser strategy to pay an extra filing and issue fee than to use appellate procedures involving delays, lawyer's time, etc. to try to overcome the hurdles arising from this baffling surprise. The client desired early issuance of a patent.

Because the present application benefits from the 01/21/99 filing date, it is tentatively designated as a CONTINUATION APPLICATION, even though it will probably be treated essentially as a DIVISIONAL APPLICATION after the issuance of the filing receipt with its class-sub-class Group designations. This case should be processed with great speed.

The documents for the application containing the apparatus claims were predominantly prepared in response to a telephone conversation with Examiner Sean Smith on Wednesday Aug. 9, 2001. The Examiner seemed adamant that if both method and apparatus claims were desired, it would be necessary to file a separate case for the apparatus claims, which he indicated could be done following the CPA procedure of FAXing the application to his new private FAS number 703-746-4256. Accordingly, Counsel filed what was intended to be this application by FAX on Aug. 9, 2001. Counsel did not send a form requesting a FAX reply because of Counsel's unawareness of the availability of the FAX-reply form. It was subsequent to Aug. 9, while browsing through the availability of Forms on line that Counsel discovered that there is a reply form for COA applications filed by FAX. Counsel is 85 years old, and has had as many as 9 patent applications pending, but is quasi-retired, and accordingly relies more upon guidance from the Examiner than some patent attorneys having a more active prosecution practice.

Counsel did phone Examiner Smith a few days after the FAXing and had oral confirmation that the FAX had been received and that the case was on file. Said FAX transmittal included the documents for paying the fee from the Deposit Account. When the filing fee was not routinely deducted from the Deposit Account, Counsel made a series of Status Inquiries, including leaving messages on the VoiceMail of Examiner Smith several times, inquiries at the Initial Examination



section, and the like, every few weeks. Counsel's persistent inquiries to the Patent Office brought on Thursday, September 25 the surprising news that currently the Patent Office does not accept the filing of a Divisional Application by FAX. Such surprising news prompted counsel to communicate with the office of his Arlington, VA associate, Eric Scherlin. A week later, on Thursday, November 1, said office phoned to explain that efforts to obtain access to the CPA of 09/235,618 had been unsuccessful, so that the apparatus application could not easily contain documentary evidence concerning the filing by FAX on Aug. 9, 2001. Preparations for filing this application started immediately, but could not be completed until Friday, November 2, 2001.

Although the two patents will expire simultaneously under the 20 year term statute, counsel tried valiantly to seek simultaneous issue of the two patents. Prior to the 20 year term statues, many courts were quite confused about "double patenting" as clarified in Stringham's book on Double Patenting. From 1937 onward, counsel particularly stressed the books about patent law by Stringham,. However, today Stringham is almost unknown to many patent professionals. Stringham had respect for many court decisions concerning some aspects of intellectual property law, but contempt for the amazing confusion about double-patenting. Some of those asinine decisions have never been explicitly overruled. Some of the double patenting decisions contain language connoting that the Patent Office cannot be accused of error and that only counsel for applicant can be blamed if any mistakes were made. The Stringham book on double patenting encouraged efforts to seek both simultaneous expiration and simultaneous issue to avoid raising double patenting issues. Modern decisions probably acknowledge that mere simultaneous expiration avoids all double patenting problems. The prosecution record establishes the intent to avoid any double patenting problem, including the effectiveness of counsel's commitment to perennial common ownership of the differently numbered patents. The record also clarifies that counsel became a part-owner of such patent property during the prosecution, and is a shareholder in the common assignee, a corporation having essentially no assets except such patent property.

Substantially all patentability issues have been decided because the method claims, throughout the prosecution, had apparatus limitations, and the apparatus claims feature method limitations. Now that Examiner Smith has made it necessary to deal with two patent applications

McLaughlin Apparatus Application of 11/02/01 benefiting from 01/21/99

instead of one, there is hope that the Patent Office can make an adequate search for the apparatus claims, but also recognize why there appears to be an appropriate basis for a First Action Notice of Allowability for the apparatus claims. The Examiner handling this case, after making a supplemental search, can essentially use Dr. Smith's statement as the reason for allowability. Counsel seeks a prompt and favorable action.

A signature page is at the end of this submission.







In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

William L. McLaughlin

Quasi-Division of pending CPA filed July 5, 2001 continuing 09/235,618 of 01/21/99

Parent Application was in Group 3729 S. Smith Examiner; Superv. Ex. Lee Young Allowed Sept. 7, 2001. Iss Fee due Dec. 7, 2001 Publications Group

STATEMENT CONCERNING TRUE COPY, ETC.

The specification and drawings submitted herewith for use as an application benefiting from the 01/21/99 filing date of the parent application are photocopies and true copies of the allowed CPA case. The three claims 1-3 submitted herewith are true copies of claims 3, 4, and 5 in the parent case as filed 01/21/99, but are merely of historical interest. A Preliminary Amendment [resembling CPA practice, as seems appropriate in this type of compulsory divisional case] substitutes the apparatus claims as they were pending in the CPA case at the time of the Examiner's erroneous requirement for their deletion.

Both apparatus and method claims were initially sought. Both were argued for in each of the amendments filed in response to the first four rejections. It was only in the fourth [Final] rejection that the Examiner raised any issue about the presence of both apparatus and method claims. Counsel cited law and arguments in contending that both claims should issue in the same case. When the Examiner repeated such requirement in the post-final rejection, counsel interpreted it as a compulsory restriction, leading to this application. Counsel cannot note what an Examiner has designated as the class and sub-class of the presently sought claims, because the Examiner never made such a designation, but made a false accusation that applicant had elected method claims when the record shows that applicant consistently sought both method and apparatus claims. Prompt examination and allowance of the claims John R. Ewbank Reg. No. 14,853

John R. Ewbank Reg. No. 14,853 are carnestly solicited.

Voice 215-357-3977 FAX 215-322-2673 e-mail hmrl@libertynet.org



McLAUGHLiN Apparatus Application of 11/02/01 benefiting from 01/21/99

Signature page

Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully, John R Ewbank

John R. Ewbank, Registration Number 14,853

Voice 215-357-3977 FAX 215-322-2673 e-mail hmrl@libertynet.org

Mr R Swbank 3-2-02



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STATEMENT CLAIMING S (32 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))-	MALL ENTITY STATUS INDEPENDENT INVENTO	Report	Docket Number (Optional 99-1
Applicant, Patentee, or Identifie	r William F. McClaug	;h1in	
Application or Patent No.:	. •		
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71111am E. McLaughlin			
NAME OF INVENTOR	NAMEOFINVENTOR	NAN	ME OF INVENTOR
Jillian E. N. L.			
Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor	Signa	ture of inventor
Jan 21 1999		•	
Date	Date		

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Date

PTO/SB/05 (12/97)

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UTILITY

PATENT APPLICATION

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First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

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TRANSMITTAL nly for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b)) Express Mail Label No Assistant Commissioner for Patents APPLICATION ELEMENTS ADDRESS TO: **Box Patent Application** See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents. Washington, DC 20231 Fee Transmittal Form Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) (Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing) 7 Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (preferred arrangement set forth below) (if applicable, all necessary) - Descriptive title of the Invention Computer Readable Copy - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) b - Reference to Microfiche Appendix Statement verifying identity of above copies - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) - Claim(s) 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of - Abstract of the Disclosure (wherk there is an assignee) Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) English Translation Document (if applicable) 1Total Sheets 10. Information Disclosure Copies of IDS Oath or Declaration Total Pages Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations Newly executed (original or copy) Preliminary Amendment Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) (Should be specifically itemized) [Note Box 5 below] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application Signed statement attached deleting Status still proper and desired inventor(s) named in the prior application. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b). (if foreign priority is claimed) Incorporation By Reference (useable If Box 4b Is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b. is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

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104 280 204 140 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	(37 CFR § 1.129(a))
109 84 209 42 Reissue independent claims	149 740 249 370 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))
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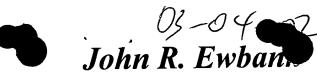
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65 years 1937-02 as patent attorney

1150 Woods Road, Southampton, PA 18955-4545 Voice 215-357-3977 FAX 215-322-2673 hmrl@libertynet.org

Website: http.www.dffcs.org

March 2, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Attn: Ms. Delora Dillard Office of Initial Examination





Re: Replacement application documents, Ser. No. 10/015,798 of 11/02/01

This communication is in response to your FAX communication of February 7, 2002, transmitting the standard FORMALITIES LETTER dated January 16, 2002. However, the identical Formalities letter had been mailed to me, together with a restricted filing receipt on January 16, 2002. One of my responses to such Formalities Letter mailed January 16, 2002 had been my FAXing the application to the Office of Initial Examination a copy of such application, as indicated by the enclosed letter of February 3, 2002. Although I might have also sent by regular first class mail a confirmation copy of such FAXed application, my files do not include a copy of a Certificate of Mailing of such confirmation copy of February 3, 2002. Hence, I am sending this communication by Certified Mail so that I will have adequate proof of having mailed it comfortably prior to the March 16, 2002 deadline. This Express Mail copy was postponed partly because of the hope and expectancy for the postcard receipt from such Feb. 3, 2002 mailing of the confirmation of the FAXed copy.

It is my understanding that the Patent Office now imposes high standards on the ease of the Patent Office in making photocopies of a patent application. On November 2, 2001 I used the last top quality photocopy of the application, never imagining that I would need a top quality photocopy again. The copy sent by FAX and mail on Feb. 3 might not have met current standards. Much time was devoted to seeking the best data for the presently submitted copy. Counsel employed a commercial photocopy machine three miles from his office in an effort to obtain the best copy possible. The presently submitted copy is believed to be adequate. If it were not, then it would be much easier for Counsel to arrange for the Patent Office to prepare photocopies of the drawings in the parent case Ser. No. 09/235,618 of 01/21/99 than to start from scratch in preparing a replacement set of drawings. Because the problems arise primarily because of the ANTRAX processing, the Patent Office has a weak case for arguing that applicant has not complied with the filing requirements when the Patent Office has consistently had in its records a set of acceptable drawings. Said parent case had acceptable drawings and specification as evidenced by the issuance of the Notice of Allowance on September 7. 2001, and

counsel's mailing by Let Class Mail the issue fee on No onber 2, 2001, but the Patent Office seems to have lost track of the whereabouts of such parent application. Counsel paid to have his Washington Associate, Eric Scherlin, to seek to gain access thereto, and such Petition for Access was informally denied. Even if a fire had destroyed all of counsel's copies of the case, the Patent Office has had available to it in said parent case the adequate copies of the drawings, specifications, and claims of this continuation [eventually to be designated as a Divisional] application. Hence so long as counsel makes a bona fide effort to comply with the Formalities Letter, the Patent Office would not have a strong case for arguing that applicant had failed to meet the obligations for filing a continuation [divisional] application.

Counsel cannot readily determine whether the current standards have been met. Counsel is also submitting a form that the Patent Office could FAX to me to confirm that an acceptable patent application had been filed.

Counsel is also offering a contingent Petition for Extension of Time for the compliance with such FORMALITIES LETTER of January 16, 2002.

Gratefully,

John R. Ewbank John R. Ewbank Reg.# 14852

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e-mail hmrl@libertynet.org